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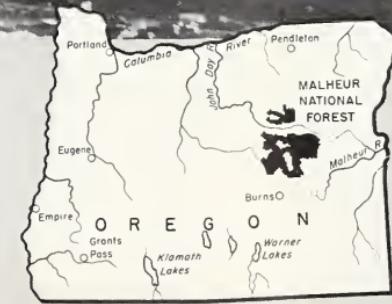


F-375592

# MALHEUR National Forest

U. S. Department of Agriculture  
Pacific Northwest Region

Forest Service  
August 1955



1.21S.



119°30'  
R.27E.

R.28E.  
20'

T22S.  
40'

T23S.

R.29E.  
10'





F-364533

*Harvesting of ponderosa pine timber means payrolls to many people and cash to the counties that have national forests; 25 percent of national-forest receipts come back to them*



Strawberry Lake in Strawberry Mountain Wild Area, sought by the hardier outdoorsman for its unspoiled beauty and the opportunity it provides to commune with nature.

F-34852

### Use of The Forest

The Malheur, like all other national forests, is for public use. When the Forest Service was established in 1905 the Secretary of Agriculture issued instructions that, "All land be devoted to its most productive use for the good of the whole people; all resources are for use, and this use must be brought about in a prompt and businesslike manner, with only such restrictions as will insure the permanence of these resources." The basic resources are water and soil from which all things grow. Other principal resources are wood, recreation, forage, and wildlife. Under the principle of multiple use, national forests are managed for coordinated development and use of all the resources of the land. Generally, a combination of several uses is possible on the same area. Conflicts between uses are resolved in the interest of the greatest good for the greatest number of people in the long run.

### Recreation For You

The Malheur National Forest encourages public use of its many fine recreational features. It can be reached over the Three Flags Highway, U. S. 395, which bisects the forest in a north-south direction. For east and west travel, U. S. 20 and U. S. 26 serve as access to it at Burns and John Day. In addition, many lateral forest roads make most of the forest accessible by car.

This forest is well known to the sportsman, particularly the big-game hunter. The large mule deer and elk herds make the Malheur forest a favorite hunting spot for thousands. Part of the Canyon Creek Game Refuge, the Canyon Creek Archery Area, has been set aside for the archer. Large numbers of hunters are scattered throughout the whole forest during the open season. Three-day antlerless deer seasons, at the end of the regular deer seasons, have drawn huge numbers of hunters to the forest. Hunter success is reported high.

Many fishermen try their luck in the streams and lakes within the Malheur National Forest during the summer. Favorite spots seem to be the North Fork of the Malheur River, Strawberry Lake, Magone Lake, and Silvies River. State fish and game laws apply on the national-forest areas and therefore sportsmen should be informed on licenses, hunting and fishing seasons, and other regulations governing fishing and hunting.

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In addition to supplying forage for domestic livestock, the Malheur forest supplies a major part of the yearlong forage needs of 22,000 mule deer, 1,100 elk, 2,500 antelope, and 260 black bear.

### Improved Forest Camps

Beech Creek.—On John Day-Pendleton Highway, 18 miles north of Mount Vernon, 26 miles north of John Day. Elevation 4,500 feet. Tables (10), fireplaces (6), spring and piped water, and sanitation facilities. Hunting.

Big Creek.—On Dark Canyon Forest Road, 37 miles southeast of John Day, 34 miles southeast of Prairie City. Elevation 5,080 feet. Tables (2), stream water, and sanitation facilities. Fishing, hunting.

Blue Spring.—On Blue Creek Spring Forest Road, 35 miles northeast from Burns. Elevation 4,500 feet. Spring and piped water, and sanitation facilities. Hunting.

Crescent.—On Prairie-Drewsey Forest Road and U. S. Highway 28, 18 miles southeast of Prairie City. Elevation 5,218 feet. Tables (2), fireplace (1), stream water, and sanitation facilities. Hunting and fishing.

Idlewild.—On John Day-Burns Highway, 16 miles north of Burns. Elevation 5,000 feet. Tables (31), fireplaces (24), well water, and sanitation facilities. Hunting.

Joaquin Miller.—On Canyon City-Burns Highway, 18 miles north of Burns. Elevation 5,000 feet. Tables (4), fireplace (1), spring and piped water, and sanitation facilities. Hunting.

Magone Lake.—On Magone Lake Forest Road, 26 miles north of John Day. Mountain road. Elevation 5,000 feet. Tables (10), fireplaces (10), spring and piped water, sanitation facilities. Fishing, boating, and hunting.

North Fork Malheur.—On North Fork Road, 48 miles southeast of Prairie City. Elevation 4,775 feet. Tables (6), fireplaces (2), stream water, and sanitation facilities. Fishing, hunting.

Parish.—11 miles east of Seneca, Oreg., on the Logan Valley Road. Elevation 5,000 feet. Spring water, sanitation facilities. Fishing, hunting.

Rock Spring.—On Silvies-Van Forest Road, 6 miles southeast of Silvies, 36 miles north of Burns. Elevation 5,000 feet. Tables (12), spring and piped water, sanitation facilities. Hunting.

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**YOUR MALHEUR NATIONAL FOREST**, one of 119 national forests administered by the U. S. Forest Service, is located in the southwestern part of Oregon's Blue Mountains. The Blue Mountain range is well named for its great, rolling forests of ponderosa pine timber that appear to have a blue cast when viewed from distance. The Malheur National Forest, established in 1908 from a part of the old Blue Mountain West Forest, now contains approximately 1,125,000 acres. It includes the headwaters of the Malheur and Silvies Rivers and a major part of the headwaters of the John Day River.

### History

The Malheur River, from which the forest derived its name, was probably called so by a party of French trappers who had their goods and furs stolen. In his diary, Peter Skene Ogden, who camped on its banks with his Hudson's Bay Company trappers in 1826, made this entry: "We camped on River au Malheur (the unfortunate river) so called on account of goods and furs, hid there, discovered and stolen by the natives." The John Day River was named for John Day, a hunter with the Astor-Hunt Overland Party of 1811-12 who, with his companion Rainey Crooks, was attacked and robbed of all his possessions, including clothes, near the mouth of the river.

Discovery of gold in the Blue Mountains in 1862 was primarily responsible for the settlement of the John Day Valley, and mining was the dominant industry during the early period. Later, livestock raising and agricultural crops became more important and in more recent years lumbering has overtaken them all. However, continuously since 1863 when the first cattle came to the area, the raising of livestock in the territory surrounding the forest has been of preeminent importance.

Grant County was formed in 1864 and included what is now Grant, Harney, and part of Wheeler Counties. The present Grant County boundaries were established in 1899 when Harney County was formed. Canyon City was the first and only county seat. Joaquin Miller, the "Poet of the Sierras," lived in Canyon City for many years and served as judge of Grant County. His house is still standing.

[1]

While most of the camping is done by big-game hunters, many campers, who just like to get out in the woods, visit the forest during the course of a year. Some prefer beautiful camps along U. S. 395 such as Idlewild, Joaquin Miller, Starr, and Beech Creek Camps, while others like to get "back in" to Blue Creek, North Fork, or Magone Lake Forest Camps.

For those who want to see vast stretches of timberland that fade off to blue haze in the distance, a trip to King Mountain Lookout, West Myrtle Lookout, or Frazer Point Lookout will give just such a view. Then, too, the arrowhead hunter has often reported success at finding Indian artifacts in Logan Valley, at the Cabbage Patch just east of Aldrich Mountain, and in Bear Valley.

Strawberry Mountain Wild Area offers an opportunity for nature lovers and recreationists to enjoy wilderness and to observe various plant cover types in their natural state and geologic formations that make up the Blue Mountains. This area consists of 35,000 acres of national-forest land lying along the Strawberry range, which rises on the south side of the John Day Valley. It is a rough, rugged area typical of the higher Blue Mountains and contains all the major timber types as well as five beautiful lakes. The tract is geologically interesting because it contains not only recent lava flow, but pockets and fingers of sedimentary deposits.

Just northwest of the forest and the town of Dayville is Picture Gorge State Park. Here the vacationist will find the famed fossil beds, which were discovered in 1861 by a company of soldiers. Fossils of the primitive horse, tapir, rhinoceros, sloth, and early species of plants related to sequoia, walnut, beech and ginkgo, to name only a few, have been found here.

### Water Use

One of the important management objectives of national-forest administration is to maintain such conditions on national-forest watersheds that they will provide the optimum amount of usable water for irrigation, domestic, and industrial use. As the population grows and agricultural land use is intensified, the demand for an adequate supply of pure, sediment-free water increases. The Malheur National Forest is the source of water supply for adjacent towns and ranches, and to meet their essential water requirements calls for good land-management practices on adjacent forest watersheds. Constant attention and vigilance is required to see that logging, grazing, and other permitted forest uses leave the watersheds unimpaired.

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Starr.—On John Day-Burns Highway, 15 miles south of Canyon City. Elevation 5,000 feet. Tables (4), fireplaces (3), spring and piped water, sanitation facilities. Hunting. Skiing at shelter 1/4 mile east.

Strawberry Creek.—On Strawberry Creek Road 12.5 miles (6 miles gravelled) south of Prairie City and John Day Highway. Elevation 5,734 feet. Tables (11), fireplaces (3), stream water, sanitation facilities. Fishing, hunting.

Trout Farm.—On Prairie-Drewsey Forest Road, 16 1/2 miles southeast of Prairie City. Elevation 4,500 feet. Tables (6), fireplace (1), spring water, sanitation facilities. Fishing, hunting, berry picking.

Wickiup.—On Canyon Creek Road. Go 10 miles south of John Day via Canyon City-Burns Highway to Joaquin Miller Resort, then 8 miles southeast. Elevation 4,300 feet. Tables (18), fireplaces (12), piped water, sanitation facilities. Fishing, hunting.

### Take Care of Your Forest Land

1. Leave a clean camp. Burn as much of your garbage, especially fish heads and cleanings, as you can. Place the rest in garbage cans or pits. If no cans or pits are provided where you camp, bury all garbage and refuse. Don't scatter straw around.

2. Keep water supplies unpolluted. In addition to properly disposing of refuse, wash clothing away from springs, streams, and lakes.

3. Cooperate in preserving forest signs. They are posted for your information.

4. Observe State fish and game laws.

5. Cooperate with forest officers.

### Be Careful With Fire

If our forests are to continue producing water, wood, forage, wildlife, and all the other resources we need, they must be protected from fire. Many fires are caused by lightning, but the majority

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2. In case you are injured and alone, keep calm. Stay where you are, clear an area to mineral soil, and build a signal fire with green boughs in it. Usually someone will find you.

3. Signal by 3 blasts from a whistle or 3 shots from a gun, 3 regulated puffs of smoke, 3 flashes of a mirror or flashlight. Repeat at regular intervals. If it is recognized by the search party, it will be answered by 2 signals. Three signals of any kind, either audible or visible, is the nationwide SOS call in the mountains. Use it only when in actual need of help.

### Administration

The Malheur National Forest is administered by the supervisor, his staff, and six district rangers. The supervisor's office is in John Day, Oreg. District rangers are located in or near the following towns:

District:	Town	District:	Town
Prairie City . . . . .	Prairie City	Bear Valley . . . . .	Canyon City
Drewsey . . . . .	Burns	Long Creek . . . . .	John Day
Burns . . . . .	Burns	Blue Mountain . . . . .	Bates

Professional foresters assist the rangers with timber sales and technical work on the forest. Many other workers are hired in the summer to maintain roads and trails, guard against fire, and help with other administrative duties essential to good forest management. The Malheur forest is your forest. You are always most welcome. Rangers and forest officers will be only too glad to answer your questions and help you in any way possible. Have a pleasant time and return often. The forest is yours to use and enjoy.



Recreational use is invited. A group gathers for an outing in one of the improved picnic areas on the Malheur. This is just one of many recreational opportunities.

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### Timber Use

Timber is another of the valuable crops on the Malheur National Forest. Each year its commercially available forest lands may yield enough timber to build more than 10,000 averaged-sized homes, equal to about 100 million board-feet, while retaining the growing stock of timber at a point where this annual harvest can be maintained. Hence, the sustained-yield capacity of this forest is estimated to be about 100 million board-feet of timber.

The local lumber industry is largely dependent on national-forest timber for continued operation. Thus national-forest timber plays a vital role in stabilizing the local economy. Trained foresters mark mature and decadent trees to be cut and leave thrifty trees for continued growth and for reseeding. Loggers remove the logs in such a way as to do the least possible damage to the land and to assure that a new crop of trees will succeed the old. After cutting is done skidroads and landings are planted to trees and grass to help hold the soil in place, improve the soil's water absorbing capacity, and assist nature to regenerate a new crop.

### Forage Use

The Malheur National Forest, located in the center of the livestock-producing area of Oregon, is one of the important range forests in the State. The vast slopes of open timberland, meadows, grassland, and browse land make much of the forest available for grazing livestock and big game. Approximately 20,000 head of cattle and 9,000 head of sheep are grazed under permit for the summer period each year on Malheur National Forest ranges.

The Forest Service encourages properly managed grazing as a part of its multiple-use program. The stockmen and the Forest Service have jointly constructed hundreds of water developments and approximately 750 miles of fence. The stockmen have built an additional 400 miles of fence. Such range improvements have been necessary to control the livestock and to obtain proper use of the forage without damage to the watershed. According to long-term objectives, good management of livestock on national-forest range is accomplished by stockmen and rangers working together.

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result from human carelessness. You can help greatly by following these few simple but important rules.

1. When camping, find out if campfire permits are required and obtain one if needed. Permits may be obtained free from any forest officer.

2. Carry a shovel, ax, and water bucket with each auto or packhorse train when planning to camp.

3. Do not smoke while traveling—whether by auto, foot, or on horseback—except while on a paved or surfaced highway.

4. Crush out all cigars, cigarettes, and pipe heels on a rock or in mineral soil. Break all matches in two before throwing them away. Use your car ashtray.

5. Before building a campfire, select a spot in an opening, clean an area down to mineral soil at least 10 feet in diameter and build the fire in the center. Keep it small. Be extra careful when strong winds or east winds occur. East winds are dry winds in summer.

6. Never leave your campfire unattended even for a few minutes; completely extinguish it with dirt and water.

7. Put out any uncontrolled fire you find burning, if possible, and then report it to the nearest forest officer. If you cannot put it out, go to the nearest phone; the telephone operator will be glad to forward your message to the nearest forest station.

8. Read and observe directions on all fire posters.

### What to Do if Lost

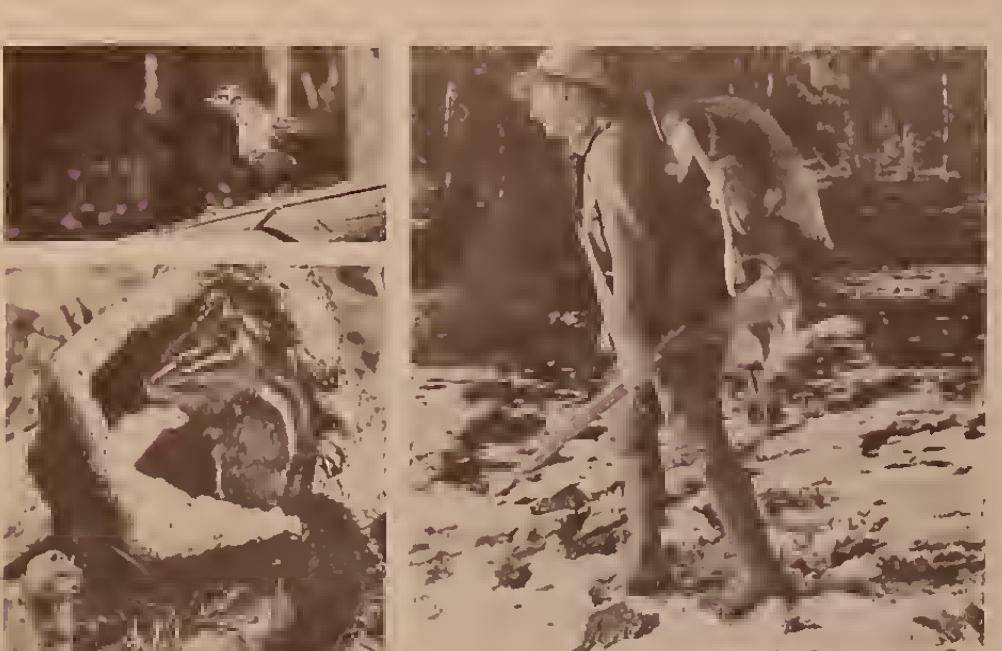
1. Keep calm. Don't walk aimlessly. Trust your map and compass. Shelter and warmth are much more important than food.

a. Climb to where you can see surrounding country, to locate yourself.

b. When you reach a road, trail, or telephone line, follow it. As last resort, follow a stream downhill.

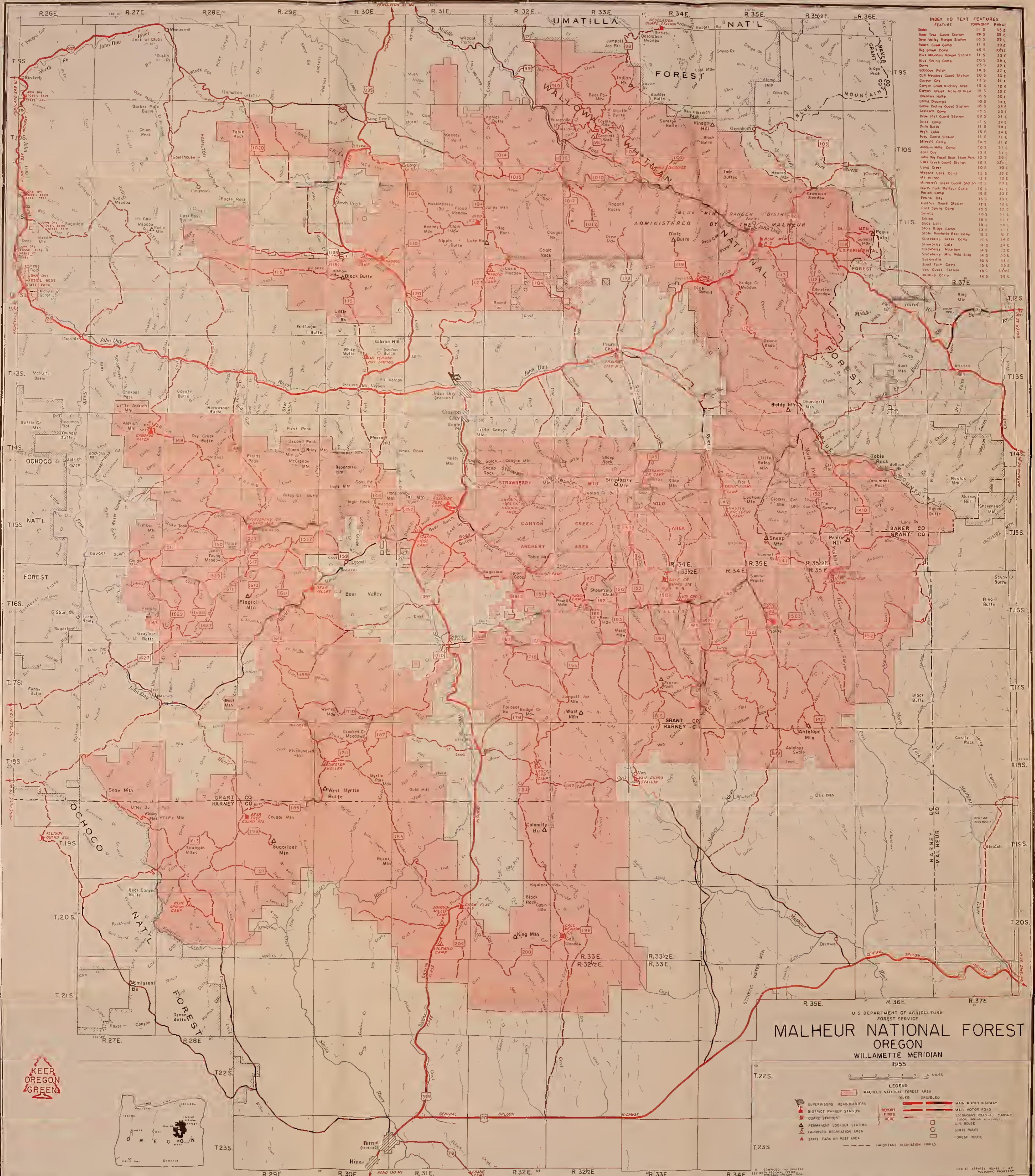
c. Before being caught by darkness, select a sheltered spot and prepare camp, shelter, and firewood.

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Forests are more than trees; a curious Franklin grouse and bold chipmunk. The successful trapper enjoys the results of cooperative work in scientific game management.





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*Food, shelter, and water are basic needs of wildlife and the nearby farmer's cattle and sheep. Well-managed forest ranges contribute much to the welfare of people*